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Colored Ministers of Washington, DC.

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"One is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren"—Matt. 23:8.
"But God hath showed me that I should not call any man common or
unclean."—Acts 10:28.

AN OPEN LETTER

TO THE DELEGATES OF THE

Sixth World's Sunday School Convention

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MAY 19th o 24th, 1910

From the Colored Ministers of Washington, D. C.

Voted(1) That it is the sense of this meeting that there does no appear to us from anything that has been done that there has been any discrimination against us on the part of The Executive Committee of the World's Sunday School Association.

Voted (2) That the Colored people of the District of Columbia have been discriminated against by the Local Committee of The World's Sunday School Convention.

Voted (3) That the following open letter be placed in the hands of the delegates to the Sixth World's Sunday School Convention.

Resolutions passed unanimously by the Colored Ministers of Washington, D. C. in Mass Meeting assembled at Walker Memorial Baptist Church on May 16th A. D., 1910.

"My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons"—James 2:1.

"If ye fulfill the royal law according to the Scriptures, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, ye do well; but if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors."—James 2:8 and 9.

MURRAY BROS. PRINTERS. Washington

Dear Fellow Christians:—

The Lord Jesus Christ on leaving the world left to His disciples the command to preach the Gospel to every creature. He also said He came to seek and save that which was lost;—hence it is the purpose of Christianity to redeem the whole world.

The object of the Sixth World's Sunday School Convention is to carry forward God's work in the spirit of Christ among all nations. We know how completely the Lord eliminated race and national prejudice from His social practice; no Samaritan was below His notice, no Magdalene beyond His touch. He is the one Lord and Master of us all. Subject to our temptations, He was without error.

It is unfortunate that any one who bears His name should at this time when "the evangelization of the world in this generation" is the watchword of millions—resort to such offensive forms of race prejudice as the Local Committee of Washington has done in completely (as far as it is concerned) eliminating the colored people from any part in the Sixth World's Sunday School Convention and in barring them from the public parade of Sunday Schools. It is difficult to see how any one can pray or hope for the evangelization of the world, when one refuses to fellowship his neighbor next door because of race and color.

It is our belief that Foreign Missionary Work will be greatly hindered in this generation unless race prejudice in America can be conquered. As Christians we have striven to better ourselves by the practice of those virtues handed down to us by Anglo-Saxon social custom, and by obeying the common law of the land and by surrendering ourselves to the Christ spirit. Considering the numerous unchristian practices of so-called Christians in the name of social expediency, we think we have done well.

The Sixth World's Sunday School Convention is now being held in this city upon invitation of the Washington Sunday School Union (white). Said invitation being seconded and warmly urged by a colored man, viz; Rev. Dr. W. J. Howard, who was a delegate to the Convention in Rome, and who spoke for the colored people as the representative of the Colored Sunday School Association of the District of Columbia, which organization has been a member of the World's Sunday School Association for ten years or more. The thirteen colored delegates of the District of Columbia to the Sixth World's Sunday School Convention were elected by the Colored Sunday School Association of the District of Columbia, and are therefore members of the World's Sunday School Association in precisely the same manner as the delegates of the white Sunday School Association of the District of Columbia.

We wish all the delegates from Europe, Asia, Africa, the Americas

and the Islands of the seas to know that in our hearts we welcome them; but because of unchristian race prejudice, which we are sure the delegates can neither understand nor appreciate, we cannot show our hospitality and Christian fellowship without greatly offending the Local Committee of white Christians, as it claims to have had an agreement that in case the invitation to come to Washington should be accepted the colored people of the District of Columbia were to have no part in the Convention arrangements, the Sunday School parade, etc. We regret the manifestation of such prejudice and are sure it does not honor our Lord and does not help either the white or the darker peoples of the world.

We believe that race prejudice, so prevalent in the American Church, greatly hinders the outpouring of the Holy Ghost and retards the coming of the Kingdom of Christ.

One object of this letter is to welcome to this city on behalf of the colored Christians of Washington all delegates to the Sixth World's Sunday School Convention. We are fellow-servants of the same Master, but we cannot refrain from expressing our deep sorrow that a body of brethren who, while wearing the badge of a Christian, would refuse to manifest the spirit of Christ to any of His children.

We herewith express to the Executive Committee of the World's Sunday School Association (under whose auspices the Convention is being held) our deep satisfaction, that, so far as doth appear, it has at no time ignored the spirit and teaching of Jesus Christ in its efforts to bring together the races and nations of the world to further the cause of Christ among the peoples of the whole earth; and we are pained beyond expression that the Local Committee—made up (as it is) of white Christians who belong to the same religious bodies as ourselves should ignore the commands and example of their Lord and Master, and ours, and “have respect to persons,” and ill treat their brethren in the Lord on the account of their race and color.

We are yours in the unwavering belief in the Fatherhood of God, the brotherhood of all men, the Messianism of Jesus Christ the Son of God and the divinity of the Holy Spirit,

J. MILTON WALDRON, Chairman
A. C. GARNER, Secretary
D. E. WISEMAN
E. S. WILLIAMS
F. J. GRIMKE

COMMITTEE.

